

Sectoral Profile: Energy Products

1. Scope of the Sector and its Place in the Economy

The energy products sector's contribution to GDP (current\$) in 1982 was \$25.8 billion, approximately 2% of total GDP. Crude petroleum and natural gas industries accounted for 4% of total GDP, electrical power 3% and the remaining sectors less than 1% each.

The sector's contribution to real GDP was less, at 5%. However, the large relative increases in crude oil prices since 1973 result in the understatement of the crude oil and natural gas industries' importance if real GDP figures are used as indicators. Therefore, nominal GDP figures are a better indicator of this sector's importance to the Canadian economy.

Employment in all sectors of the energy products grouping totals about 185,000, approximately 2% of total employment. Eighty-three thousand people were employed in the electrical power sector in 1984, 43,000 in crude petroleum and natural gas industries, 22,000 in petroleum and coal products industries, 10,000 in coal mines, with the sectors of gas distribution, pipeline transport and uranium accounting for the remainder.

Table 1.1 to 1.7 show real and nominal GDP for the various components of the sector from 1973 to 1984. Employment data at this level of disaggregation are only available for 1983 and 1984.

Energy exports totalled \$15.6 billion in 1984, 13.8% of total merchandise exports. Energy imports were a lesser \$6.2 billion (6.4% of total merchandise imports). The surplus on energy trade represents 56% of the total merchandise trade surplus.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show exports and imports of energy commodities from 1973 to 1984.

The export of natural gas, surplus to future Canadian requirements has been the country's largest energy export in terms of value in the 1980's contributing approximately \$4 billion to Canada's trade balance in 1984. All gas was exported to the U.S.